(c) if so, whether the consent from the Central Government was sought for?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) to (c) A number of representations have been received from the Non-Government Organisations, Legislators and others regarding the environmental implications of the Chilka project, which is a joint venture of the Government of Orissa and Chilka Aquatic Farm Ltd. The Government of Orissa has been advised to undertake a detailed environmental impact assessment study of the project by a multi-disciplinary group.

(d) The State Government has set apart about 375 hectares of land for the project for making farm ponds.

(e) No, Sir.

Slowing down of work on Ganga Action Plan

261. SHRI JAGMOHAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the work on the Ganga Action Plan has slowed down and a number of problems have arisen in regard to maintenance of 'items' already completed; and

(b) what steps are being taken to complete the entire project expeditiously and resolve the maintenance problems?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) and (b) It is not correct to say that the work on the Ganga Action Plan has slowed down. The progress on the ongoing schemes is going apace except in a few schemes which are facing the problems of acquisition of land or contractual problems. Regular review of the ongoing schemes is being made in consultation with the State Governments and all steps are being taken to speedily complete them. There was some delay on the part of the State Governments in releasing their share of the cost of operation and maintenance of the completed schemes. This has since been sorted out.

Forest land in Uttar Pradesh

262. SHRI RAM RATAN RAM:
DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what was the total average of forest land in U.P. three years ago;

(b) what is the total area denuded during the last three years; and

(c) what steps are being taken by Government for stopping the illicit felling of trees?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) According to the total assessment of the forest cover made by Forest Survey of India based on visual interpretation of satellite imageries pertaining to the period 1987-89, the total recorded forest area in the State of Uttar Pradesh was 51502 Sq. Kms.

(b) There is a decrease of 18 Sq. Kms. in the existing forest cover in Uttar Pradesh during the period of assessment 1987-89 as compared to the previous assessment pertaining 1985-87.

(c) The various steps taken by the Government to check illicit felling of trees are:—

i) Guidelines have been issued to State Government/UTs. to consider banning green felling on mountaines/hills above 1000 metres;

ii) Forest protection measures are being intensified including strengthening of infra-structure facilities to curb biotic interference in the forest;

iii) Enactment of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 to check